sending a second portion of the annotation from the tier III server to a tier II server;

storing the second portion of the annotation on the tier II server;

sending association information from the tier II server to a tier I server; and

storing the association information on the tier I, wherein the tier I server is separate and distinct from the tier II server.

22. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a "client-to-tier III server" data structure for scalable annotations, comprising:

a first field containing data representing a context document identifier;

a second field containing data representing a body of the annotation;

a third field containing data representing generic properties of the annotation;

a fourth field containing data representing type specific properties of the annotation;

a fifth field containing data representing a URL for a tier III server for receiving and storing a portion of the post of the annotation;

a sixth field containing data representing a URL for a tier II server for receiving and storing a portion of the post of the annotation; and

a seventh field containing data representing a URL for a tier I server for receiving and storing associations for the annotation, wherein the URL for the tier I server is distinct from the URL for the tier II server.

23. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a "tier III server-to-tier II server" data structure for scalable annotations, comprising:

a first field containing data representing a context document identifier;

a second field containing data representing generic properties of the annotation;

a third field containing data representing a URL for a tier III server for receiving and storing a portion of the post of the annotation;

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a fourth field containing data representing an identifier for the portion of the post of the annotation stored on the tier III server;

a fifth field containing data representing a URL for a tier II server for receiving and storing a portion of the post of the annotation; and

a sixth field containing data representing a URL for a tier I server for receiving and storing associations for the annotation, wherein the URL for the tier I server is distinct from the URL for the tier II server.

24. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a "tier II server-to-tier I" server data structure for scalable annotations, comprising:

a first field containing data representing a context document identifier;

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a second field containing data representing an indexing identifier of the annotation;

a third field containing data representing a URL for a tier II server for indexing the annotation; and

a fourth field containing data representing a URL for a tier I server for receiving and storing associations for the annotation, wherein the URL for the tier I server is distinct from the URL for the tier II server.

25. (Amended) A scalable computerized method for managing annotations, the method comprising:

storing within a tier I server a plurality of associations with references to a tier II server for each association;

storing within a tier II server an indexing identifier for each one of the annotations and storing within the tier II server a reference to a tier III server for each one of the annotations;

storing within a tier III server content for each one of the annotations;

receiving by the tier I server from a client a context document identifier; and

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providing a first response to the client from the tier I server, wherein the first response comprises one or more associations for the context document identifier and the reference to the tier II server for each one of the associations, and wherein the tier I server is separate and distinct from the tier II server.

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